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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	25X1
SUBJECT	Off-Duty Restrictions Imposed on Soviet Military	DATE DISTR.	18 August 1953
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1. Order No. 0275, issued by GOFG in 1951 specified that Army personnel in the Soviet Zone of Germany were never off-duty, and must be ready for duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This order also prohibited the military from wearing civilian clothing, drinking in messes billets or bars, and forbade contact with Germans.

2. In addition, the order stated that EM could not leave their compound unless in formation, or detailed for some duty. Nor could officers go to town until 2300 hours on weekdays and 2400 hours on Saturdays; before leaving, they had to notify their headquarters of their destination, and sign the time of departure and return. Officers could go into stores to make purchases, but were prohibited from conversing freely with German personnel, attending movies, bars, theaters and cafes, and having any intercourse with Germans.

3. I did not observe these restrictions; 30% of the officers in the 482nd Repair Base and 1787th Depot disobeyed all of the above regulations. EM tried to fraternize whenever possible. About 50% used the cemetary near Eberswalde as a trysting place, going AWOL by jumping over the fence or conniving with friendly sentries. This was done despite the bed-check which was supposed to be nightly, but actually was carried out about once a week.

4. As of March 1953 officers were required to go to town in pairs.

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